

IRIYAMA et al.
Q63249
Preliminary Amendment

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-9 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims:

10. A rechargeable nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery comprising a positive electrode which can be doped with lithium ions and de-doped of lithium ions, a nonaqueous electrolyte solution and a negative electrode, wherein a negative electrode active material consists essentially of a carbon material including at least two components:

- (a) flake graphite particles; and
- (b) a non-flake graphite material whose surface is covered with amorphous carbon.

11. The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 10, wherein a ratio of (a) said flake graphite particles is within a range of 10 to 70 wt% of all the carbon materials.

12. The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 10, wherein the specific surface area of (b) said non-flake graphite material whose surface is covered with amorphous carbon is within a range of $0.3 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ to $3 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.

13. The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 11, wherein the specific surface area of (b) said non-flake graphite material whose surface is covered with amorphous carbon is within a range of $0.3 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ to $3 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.

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14. The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 12, wherein (b) said non-flake graphite material whose surface is covered with amorphous carbon is obtained by graphitizing mesocarbon microbeads.

15. The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 13, wherein (b) said non-flake graphite material whose surface is covered with amorphous carbon is obtained by graphitizing mesocarbon microbeads.

16. The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 10, wherein a weight average particle diameter of (a) said flake graphite particles is within a range of 10 μm to 80 μm .

17. The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 11, wherein a weight average particle diameter of (a) said flake graphite particles is within a range of 10 μm to 80 μm .

18. The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 16, wherein (a) said flake graphite particles are artificial graphite obtained from petroleum pitch or coal pitch as a raw material.

19. The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 17, wherein (a) said flake graphite particles are artificial graphite obtained from petroleum pitch or coal pitch as a raw material.

20. The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 10, wherein said carbon material consists solely of (a) said flake graphite particles, and (b) said non-flake graphite material whose surface is covered with amorphous carbon.

21. The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 11, wherein said carbon material consists solely of (a) said flake graphite particles, and (b) said non-flake graphite material whose surface is covered with amorphous carbon.

22. The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 12, wherein said carbon material consists solely of (a) said flake graphite particles, and (b) said non-flake graphite material whose surface is covered with amorphous carbon.

23. The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 13, wherein said carbon material consists solely of (a) said flake graphite particles, and (b) said non-flake graphite material whose surface is covered with amorphous carbon.

24. The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 16, wherein said carbon material consists solely of (a) said flake graphite particles, and (b) said non-flake graphite material whose surface is covered with amorphous carbon.

25. The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 17, wherein said carbon material consists solely of (a) said flake graphite particles, and (b) said non-flake graphite material whose surface is covered with amorphous carbon.

26. A method for manufacturing a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery, said method comprising steps of:

applying a slurry onto a current collector; the slurry comprising (a) flake graphite particles, (b) a non-flake graphite material whose surface is covered with amorphous carbon, a binder, and a dispersion medium;

drying the slurry; and

compressing the dried slurry by the application of a pressure.

27. The method for manufacturing a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 26, wherein a ratio of (a) said flake graphite particles is within a range of 10 to 70 wt% of all carbon materials in the slurry.

28. A carbon material composition comprising:

- (a) flake graphite particles; and
- (b) a non-flake graphite material whose surface is covered with amorphous carbon; a weight ratio of (a) to (b) being 10:90 to 70:30.